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Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life

**Held on Friday, October 4, 2002
SGW Campus H 769 10:00am**

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. R. Côté, Ms K. Curtis, Ms M. Drew, Ms A. Kerby, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. L. Lawton, Ms O. Maibroda, Mr. A. Munro, Ms G. Pagé, Ms R. Perreault, Ms D. Ross, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. A. Sibai, Mr. A. Slater, Mr. S. Zuberi, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms N. Nogoya, Mr. K. Pruden, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Greco

ABSENT: Mr. J. Brisebois

GUESTS: Mr. N. Lanthier

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert welcomed Council members to the first CCSL meeting of the year. He drew Council's attention to the CCSL mandate and explained the role of CCSL. He noted there were currently two vacancies - the Director of Student Life Relations and the Continuing Education student representative. As this has been a particularly momentous fall term, he expected certain issues would emerge at the meeting and reiterated the importance of open discussion and debate at Council.

He highlighted the following Student Services issues:

- Two projects by Concordia students have been nominated for awards by Forces Avenir, a non-profit organization that encourages contributions to the community by Quebec university students. The projects are "Projet Mobilivre", a bookmobile and "Group Creative Art Therapies", a project to help depressed adolescents. He reminded Council that as

Concordia's Art Matters won last year it is very exciting and prestigious for Concordia students to be finalists again this year.

- The renovations to the Student Services space on the Loyola Campus are in the final stages. The "west wing" is expected to be completed by the end of October and the "east wing" by the end of December. The consolidation of Student Services (Dean of Students, Health Services, Counselling & Development and Advocacy & Support Services) on the Loyola Campus is finally a reality!

Dr. Boisvert reminded Council that the following reports should be submitted to CCSL as follows:

- Semi-annual reports from the Student Services Directors in December and May
- Year-end reports from the CSU and GSA in May
- **Comprehensive** semi-annual reports from the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank in December and April **before** their subsidy can be approved

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF May 3, 2002

A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Poster Policy

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the poster policy, which was approved at CCSL on May 3, 2002, has been sent to Rector's Cabinet for ratification. It is hoped that Rector's Cabinet next week would endorse this policy. Dr. Boisvert will keep Council apprised of the situation.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Mandate

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the distributed Mandate. Ms Pagé asked for clarification on the role and power of CCSL. Dr. Boisvert explained that as CCSL is a parity body it carries a great deal of moral persuasion. CCSL plays an important role in monitoring services and student life and submitting recommendations for improvement. Council also has the responsibility for approving the Student Services Budget.

5.2 Budget Summary 2001-2002

As there was an error in calculation on the distributed financial statement, this item was deferred to the November 1st CCSL meeting. A corrected statement will be distributed to Council.

5.3 Student Services Budget 2002-2006

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that this year is the final year of the 3-year Student Services budget for 2000-2003. A new 3-year budget (2003-2006) will be submitted to Council for approval. He explained briefly the budgetary process. He added that this process would ensure that there would be plenty of lead-time provided for budgetary discussions.

5.4 GSA Annual Report 2001-2003

Ms Maibroda gave a brief overview of the distributed report. Dr. Boisvert thanked her for a most comprehensive report. She noted that the name of the V.P Finance was incorrect in the report. Ms Maibroda said the correct name would be forwarded to the secretary of CCSL.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Concordia Bookstore

Ms Lipscombe drew Council's attention to the distributed letter from the Eastern Association of College Stores to the Hon. Allan Rock, Federal Industry Minister. The letter explained the commitment of this association, of which Concordia is a member, to deal only with vendors who uphold just labour practices. The letter also detailed the association's request that the government make changes to the Textile Labelling Act regulations that will increase transparency of labour conditions in the apparel industry. On behalf of Council, Dr. Boisvert thanked Ms Lipscombe for this proactive initiative.

Health Services

The Healthy Living Guide, distributed to Council, is a new Health Services publication. Ms Drew explained the guide has been two years in the making. She felt the publication was a very timely and important tool for students. She applauded the hard work and initiative the Health Services staff put into the publication.

Voting Procedures

Ms Pagé asked for clarification of the voting procedures for Council. Dr. Boisvert explained that historically CCSL has operated on "consensus".

However votes were taken on occasion when the issue in question was considered to be "weighty" or to have consequences. In those circumstances, it was important to have a record of the vote which would include those who wished to abstain. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Chair would ask if Council wished to vote on any issue before it.

Composition of Rector's Cabinet

Mr. Zuberi asked if there had been any response to the motion approved by CCSL on May 3, 2002 calling for the Dean of Students to sit on Rector's Cabinet. Dr. Boisvert replied there has been no response. Mr. Zuberi, seconded by Ms Pagé, tabled the following motion:

WHEREAS the Rector's Advisory Group previously consisted of the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Faculty Deans and other members, one of whom was the Dean of Students;

WHEREAS the Dean of Students is the direct liaison between student associations and Student Services on campus and the University administration;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rector's Cabinet respond in writing to a motion that was passed in May 2002 calling for the Dean of Students to sit on Rector's Cabinet;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any response be accompanied by a written explanation giving the reasoning behind any decision made;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this written explanation be forthcoming before the next CCSL meeting of 1 November 2002.

The motion was carried unanimously without abstentions

Resolutions Passed By Board of Governors on September 18, 2002

Mr. Slater asked if Mr. Brisebois, Director of Security, would be in attendance as he had specifically requested that Mr. Brisebois be at Council in order to address security issues arising from the events of the last few weeks. Dr. Boisvert confirmed that it was his understanding too that Mr. Brisebois would be at Council.

A discussion ensued concerning the Board of Governor's Resolutions on the following issues:

- ban on information tables/exhibits in the Mezzanine
- moratorium on issues relating to the Middle East

Ban on Information/exhibits in the Mezzanine

Mr. Slater asked for clarification on the statement made in the Thursday Report that information tables had been removed as they were a fire hazard. Mr. Lanthier, Health & Safety Officer, replied that his office had never stated that the tables were a fire threat. He reiterated that when the space is used properly it has never been a fire hazard.

Council was in agreement that the ban on activities in the Mezz has had a negative effect on students, staff and faculty alike. Unfortunately in many cases adequate alternative space was not available on such short notice. Ms Drew informed Council that the Health Services Fair, scheduled for the Mezz, had to be cancelled. As well Ms Maibroda said the relocation of the GSA Book Fair had adversely affected their sales. It is clear that the ban has affected crucial programming and events.

Both Mr. Cote and Ms Kerby spoke in favour of lifting the ban on the Mezzanine. The Hall Building Mezzanine has always traditionally served as a student tabling and/or exhibit space in lieu of a student centre building on the SGW Campus.

The following motion was tabled by Mr. Zuberi and seconded by Ms Pagé

WHEREAS Student Services, student clubs and student associations use tabling events and activities on the mezzanine and in the lobby to outreach to the University community;

WHEREAS Student Services, student clubs and student associations are negatively affected by the ban on tabling on the mezzanine and in the lobby of the Hall Building;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CCSL call upon the Board of Governors to overturn their decision to ban all tables and activities on the mezzanine and in the lobby of the Hall Building;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CCSL call upon the Board of Governors to give a written explanation behind the decision for the ban on tables and activities on the mezzanine and in the lobby of the Hall Building.

The motion was carried unanimously without abstentions

Mr. Slater thanked Mr. Lanthier for being present at the meeting. He was concerned that Mr. Brisebois was not present and asked that a letter be sent from the Chair requesting him to be present at the November 1st CCSL Meeting.

Moratorium on Middle East Issues

Mr. Munro spoke out strongly against the moratorium on Middle East issues. He felt the ban was a strike against freedom of speech and showed the university had lost its "core meaning". This ban is not the way to solve the issues facing the university community. It is harsh and discriminatory. He added that although students are divided on the Middle East issue, they are not divided on the issue of freedom of speech.

Mr. Zuberi reiterated the sentiments expressed by Mr. Munro. He felt that as the atmosphere at the university was not the same as on September 9th, a 3-month moratorium was outrageous and threatened the basic rights and freedoms accorded to everyone.

Ms Kerby said that these resolutions have created an environment where students, faculty and staff are feeling restricted in their critical expression and debate.

Mr. Slater felt that the violence on September 9th was a direct result of massive mistakes by the university. He said the university is shifting the blame for the events of September 9th to the students instead of taking responsibility for their mistakes with respect to the visit by Mr. Netanyahu.

After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was tabled by Mr. Munro and seconded by Mr. Slater:

WHEREAS Concordia University's principles and mission cherish academic freedom;

WHEREAS Concordia University is bound to respect the right of freedom of speech and the right of association guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS the University is an institution of critical thinking, debate and, by nature, a public space;

WHEREAS the Concordia University administration cannot morally or legally prevent students from publicly defending and advocating human rights on a regional, religious or political belief basis;

WHEREAS the moratorium is creating an environment where students, faculty and staff are being restricted or silenced in their critical expression and debate;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CCSL call upon the Board of Governors to reverse their decision on the moratorium on Middle East issues.

The motion was carried unanimously without abstentions

Q Annex & P Annex Lock Change

The following motion was tabled by Mr. Zuberi, seconded by Mr. Sibai

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current locks of the main entrances of the P and Q annexes on Mackay Street be replaced with the locks used prior to September 8th, 2002, which allowed clubs and associations access to their offices in the annexes of their own free will;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University body or office responsible for any future renovations and/or alterations which might in any way further reduce accessibility by student clubs and associations, do the following:

- a) notify all affected umbrella associations, in writing, fourteen calendar days prior to any renovations to the P and Q annexes,*
- b) post a visible notice in the affected annexes fourteen calendar days in advance;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a written apology from Security be given to all clubs and associations in the P and Q annexes for the inconvenience that has been caused by the changing of the locks on the Mackay entrances to the annexes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT no charges be made to the CSU or the Dean of Students for the costs of changing these locks.

The motion was carried unanimously without abstentions

Ms Boujaklian will report back to Council on where the original locks for the P & Q annexes are now.

Lounge Space for Disabled Students

Ms Curtis said some disabled students who questioned why there was no lounge space for disabled students had approached her. As Services for Disabled Students falls under the banner of Advocacy & Support Services, Ms Kerby replied to the question. She explained that lounge space normally falls under the jurisdiction of the student government and encouraged the students to form an association. However, Ms Kerby offered to sit down with Ms Curtis to further discuss the issue.

Concordia Exchange Program (Centre for International Academic Cooperation)

Mr. Munro felt that the exchange program at Concordia was limited. Dr. Boisvert said he would ask a representative from the Exchange Program to speak at CCSL to address these concerns.

Hall Building Escalators

The students expressed frustration on the seemingly constant disrepair of the escalators. Dr. Shaver reiterated the importance of the stairwells being well marked and publicized as an alternative. As well perhaps information on "escalator etiquette" be publicized for more awareness of safety issues. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Sibai made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Hamideh:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CCSL mandate the Chair to write a letter to the Vice-Rector, Services to request that Security check on the operation of the escalators on their patrols;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when escalators are turned off for safety reasons, they be turned back on as soon thereafter as safely possible.

The motion was carried unanimously without abstentions

Clock System

Ms Boujaklian reported that the clock issue has been resolved. A proposal was accepted and funds were secured to provide a digital and hopefully foolproof "clock system". The system should be installed in the Hall, Administration and Central Buildings by Christmas.

Internet Services to Students

Mr. Munro felt that the student services offered by IITS should be improved especially with respect to internet cost and speed of connections, etc. Dr. Boisvert will ask Mr. McAusland, Executive Director of IITS, for a report on this issue.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the November 1st CCSL meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Appointments to CCSL Committees

Council approved the membership of the Student Project Funding Committee as follows:

Ms Drew, Chair

Ms Maibroda, graduate representative

Mr. Zuberi agreed to forward the names of the 3 undergraduate representatives to Ms Hackett as soon as possible

9. NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2002 Loyola Campus AD 308 10am

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING:

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Curtis and seconded by Ms Kerby.